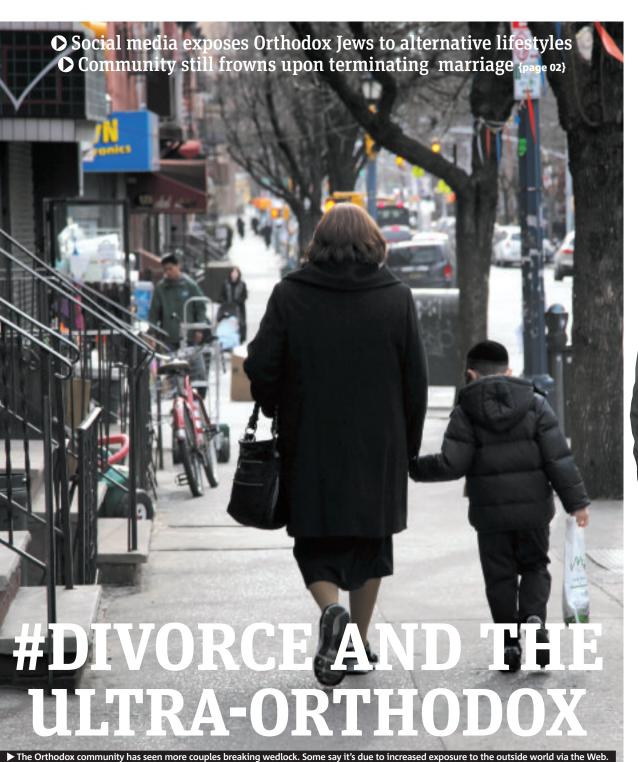
NYC'S #1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER

BURBERRY: IT'S MORE THAN PLAII



NEW YORK Wednesday, February 20, 2013





music

#### **Andrea Bocelli** will melt your cold, cold heart

Legendary opera singer on the romantic songs of his latest album {page 15}



home

#### It's called a deposit, not an extra payment

Don't let your landlord swindle you out of money when you move out {page 29}





#### In the news Man arrested <u>in</u> SI murder

Cops charged a Staten Island man with murder after a homicide on Monday afternoon. According to cops, around 4 p.m., Feb. 18, police responded to an assault on Country Drive North in Staten Island. They said they found Llona Ganzha, 44, stabbed multiple times. She was declared dead on the scene, cops said. Police arrested Adiljan Anarbaev, 44, and charged him with murder. © METRO/AB

#### In the news



#### NYPD sergeant charged with child porn

An NYPD sergeant was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography, police said.

Alberto Randazzo, 36, was also charged with use of a child in a sexual performance and promoting a sexual performance by a child. Cops say he had porn on his cell phone and personal computer, including video of an adult and a child engaging in a

METRO/DT

# Community calls social media a homewrecker

- More Orthodox Jews are choosing to end marriages, leave their communities
- Technology may be to blame, making it easier to explore alternative lifestyles
- Today, there's still a heavy cultural stigma associated with getting a divorce

There's been a recent rise in divorce in the Orthodox Jewish community, and counselors say that social networking may be to blame.

Hindie Klein, director of clinical projects for Ohel Children's Home and Family Services, said that seeing what other people have and how they live invites comparisons that can and do contribute to divorce.

Klein said, "Social media can be a good connective force, but also very seductive."

But Baruch Herzfeld, a consultant on Hasidic divorce, says "the technology is the excuse."

"There is unhappiness, and Facebook presents options," Herzfeld explained. "Before, someone would get divorced and leave the community. Now, even if they move, you see them [on Facebook] and they take off their wig and they go to Miami and they are drinking a cocktail, and you ask yourself, 'Why am I with this miserable person? Why should I be in prison? Let me get out."

Herzfeld brought up the fact that ultra-Orthodox Jewish women and men marry young and often don't know each other well. Lani Santo — who



#### Traditional Jewish divorces

There are laws that exist in traditional Jewish law that were "constructed for divorces to be able to happen," noted Santo.

However, Reiss explained that Jewish law only allows a woman to request a divorce — her husband must grant it, with a document called a get. "What happens is that men realize this power that they have over their wives," Reiss said, adding that men will often withhold the get while demanding money, property, custody or freedom from alimony in exchange.

While the woman is without a get, she is an "agunah" or "chained woman," Reiss explained, and she can't remarry. Women face the possibility of being alone for the rest of their lives, Reiss said.

After Reiss' own divorce, she refused to accept the get from her husband. The get is not valid unless it is either signed by the wife or by 100 rabbis, Reiss said.

She received calls from religious representatives until they decided it was easier to round up 100 rabbis than deal with her.

works at Footsteps, an organization that helps people leave the ultra-Orthodox community — agreed that the situation contributes to why a lot of the women choose to di-

vorce and leave the community.

Fraidy Reiss is one of those women. She is the daughter of a divorced woman, and she also divorced and broke away from the community.

Reiss said she thinks it's getting easier simply because it's becoming more common.

But Santo said it's often still a struggle, and it can be a scary one at that.

"A really challenging thing that happens with people who are leaving and getting divorced is the way the entire community will pool their resources to make sure whoever's leaving doesn't get custody of the children, whether it's a man or a woman," he said.

Reiss knew about that firsthand; she said that when she attempted to divorce her husband, one rabbi threatened to kidnap her kids and another threatened to testify that she was an unfit mother.

It wasn't only rabbis, however — her friends wanted to testify as well.

She doesn't hold it against them. Having grown up in the community, she understands what motivates them.



# "There's a belief in that community that if you're not religious, you're

unstable and not a fit mother. They really believe the kids are not going to

have a good life." REISS

#### News in brief

#### Burglar raids Bronx cemetery

Thousands of bronze items have been burgled from a Bronx cemetery.

About \$160,000 worth of bronze from 65 mausoleums, as well as graves, was stolen from St. Raymond's Cemetery, according to the New York

The stolen items were bronze pieces like door han-



dles and nameplates, which can be sold as valuable scrap metal.

On Monday, Feb. 18, a suspect was observed inside the cemetery in possession

of such brass handles and air vents. The suspect fled without the listed items, according to the NYPD.

Police have identified the suspect as Louis Peduto, 56.



He was last seen wearing a dark-colored hooded jacket and a red-hooded sweatshirt.

This is not the first time robbers have struck a local

cemeter

In 2011, bronze vases were stolen from cemeteries in Long Island.

About 150 were taken from Pinelawn Cemetery, NBC reported, and others were taken from St. Charles Cemetery.

Last summer, officials said that 75 flags had disappeared from Cedar Park Cemetery in Hudson, N.Y., but the culprits turned out to be woodchucks.

Anyone with information about the cemetery thefts is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). 

METRO/AB



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#### In the news



# Council considers graffiti bills

CITY HALL. The City Council Committee on Public Safety discussed making graffiti harder to commit during a special hearing about the crime. Councilmembers considered adding aerosol spray-paint caps and etching pens to the list of banned graffiti tools. They also want buyers to provide identification to buy these tools, not just etching acid. "As vandals have found new ways to destroy property, we have to evolve and find new ways to stop them," Chair Peter Vallone said. They also asked the NYPD to

publish its number of quality-of-life summonses and graffiti arrests four times a year. 

METRO/AB

#### School bus service returns today

NEW YORK CITY. Public school buses will be back on the roads when students return to school from winter break this morning, Chancellor Dennis Walcott said.

After a monthlong strike that began on Jan. 16, members of Local 1181 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, return to work today. Parents of 150,000 students who were affected by the strike no longer have to worry about how to get their children to school, though Walcott said there might be minor delays.

METRO/LS

150K

Were affected by the

# 'Made in NY' expands to cultivate tech sector

Tech-company employees are joining the ranks of film and television projects courted by New York City.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced yesterday that Made in New York, a city program previously highlighting television and film projects, will expand to cultivate tech businesses.

Bloomberg said the "We are Made in NY" program will feature a list of tech jobs and available grants in hopes of convincing tech companies to plant themselves in New York.

"The city offers the ideal location for talented people with ground-breaking ideas to start their companies," Bloomberg said.

Between 2007 and 2011, the number of employees at digital media companies grew by 80 percent, according to the may-



#### Quoted

"The city offers the ideal location for talented people with ground-breaking ideas to start their companies." BLOOMBERG

or's office.

Among the companies based in New York are Etsy, an online shop where people sell their homemade and vintage goods like jewelry, and Kickstarter, a platform for people to raise money for projects.

"Etsy's headquarters have always been in 900

The city will create a map of tech jobs, pulling from more than 900 local companies, which boast 3,000 available jobs now, Bloomberg said.

Brooklyn, and we are proud to call this city home," Etsy CEO Chad Dickerson said.

The city will create a map of tech jobs, pulling from more than 900 local companies, which boast 3,000 available jobs now, Bloomberg said.

The Made in NY website will also tell tech companies about subsidized office space. The ad campaign will adorn subway stations and buses.



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#### News in brief

#### **Abuse charges** lead to CBS anchor's arrest

A WCBS-TV news anchor was arrested for allegedly choking his wife during a fight at their Connecticut home.

Rob Morrison was charged with strangulation, threatening and disorderly conduct, the New York Times reported. He was released on \$100,000 bail.

He and his wife, Ashley Morrison, a CBS MoneyWatch reporter, released a statement saying that the charges are "greatly exaggerated."

A spokesperson said CBS doesn't comment on personal matters.

METRO/LAURA SHIN



# Firefighters to honor Sandy Hook victims by building playgrounds

A New Jersey firefighters' union will memorialize the children and teachers of Sandy Hook Elementary School by building 26 playgrounds in the towns that were hit hardest by superstorm Sandy.

Each playground will be named after one of the victims of the Newtown massacre.

The plan calls for 10 playgrounds to be built in New York and New Jersey, while another six play-grounds will be built in Connecticut.

Construction on the first playground will start in Sea Bright, N.J., and will be named after special education teacher Ann Marie Murphy.

"The residents of Sea Bright lost so much from superstorm Sandy that something like a new playground, besides providing



Cost of the project to be spearheaded by the Firefighters' **Mutual Benevolent** Association of N.J.

a safe place for our children to play, is also a symbol of hope and recovery,"

Mayor Dina Long told the Wall Street Journal.

The project will cost \$2.1 million and be spearheaded by New Jersey's Firefighters' Benevolent Association. Construction. The first playground will begin on March 1, 2013.





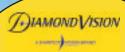


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11:30 - How do I thank God for His grace?

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# Yacht. Wealth The Eclipse is reported to be the largest private yacht in the world.

#### GETTY IMAGES

#### Big yacht comes to Big Apple

The Eclipse, reported to be the largest private yacht in the world, sailed into New York City yesterday. The boat is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion and is owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich. 

METRO

#### In the news



# Feds bust counterfeit taxi-parts ring

Authorities raided three local warehouses yesterday, seizing counterfeit taxi parts and arresting at least five individuals, the New York Post reported. A dozen FBI agents were stationed outside of a brick warehouse in Queens as authorities seized knockoff car parts inside.

Three arrests were made in Queens, and two in Paterson, N.J.

The arrestees were allegedly producing knockoff car parts and selling them to taxi drivers under the impression they were receiving name brand goods. METRO/DT

#### Bronx man arrested after assault on father and daughter

A Bronx man who was caught on video assaulting a father and his 6-year-old daughter at a laundromat has been arrested.

Fernando Gonzalez, 27, entered the laundromat at 4825 White Plains Road on Saturday and assaulted a man and his daughter and sprayed them with Mace.

Gonzalez surrendered to police on Monday night, the New York Post report-

The video reveals Gonzalez entering the laundromat and throwing punches before spraying the 47-year-old victim and his daughter with Mace.

The victims did not know the attacker, but the Post reports the victim and the suspect's girlfriend had gotten into an argument earlier over a prepaid card needed to use the washers and dryers. 

METRO/LS

#### Man charged with swiping Dali painting

UPPER EAST SIDE.

Prosecutors charged a man with grand larceny after they said he lifted a valuable painting from an art gallery. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance announced yesterday that Italian resident Phivos Istravrioglou, 29, was charged in the theft of a 1949 Salvador Dali piece.

Officials say that in June 2012, Istavrioglou

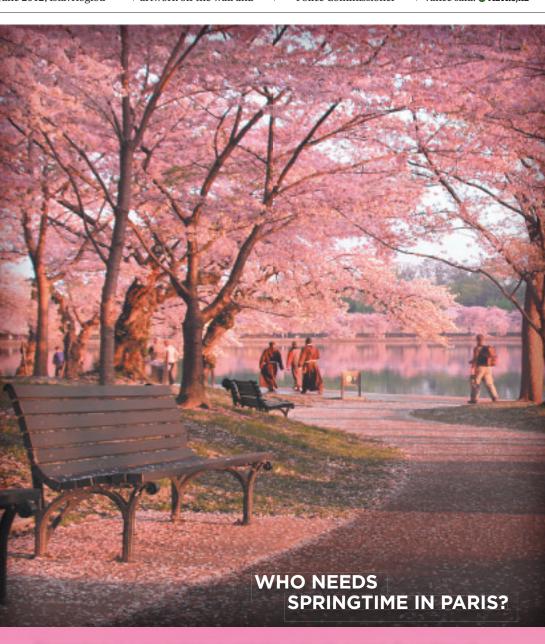
\$150K

Estimated worth of Dali painting stolen from a Manhattan gallery

was in the Venus Over Manhattan art gallery on the Upper East Side, where he took the artwork off the wall and put it into a shopping bag. Prosecutors say the drawing, worth \$150,000, was mailed anonymously back to the gallery from Greece, and the NYPD found it in a shipping tube at JFK. An undercover detective posed as a manager for an art gallery set up a meeting with Istavrioglou, prosecutors said. He was arrested by NYPD officers.

Police Commissioner

Ray Kelly said detectives matched a fingerprint in the theft to one last year where juice was shoplifted from a Whole Foods. "It was almost surreal how this theft was committed — a thief is accused of putting a valuable Salvador Dalí drawing into a shopping bag in the middle of the afternoon, in full view of surveillance cameras," Vance said. **© METRO/AB** 



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The condition and rarity of an item determines its price. If an item is in excellent condition and very rare it might be worth the up to price, or even more. However, if an item is in poor condition, the value will be lower. For example, a 1927 S Quarter could be worth \$7,000 in new condition or less than \$20 in poor condition. The up to price reflects items of exceptional quality and rarity. Although it is unlikely you will have these items due to their extreme rarity, feel free to bring whatever items you may have and we will evaluate them free of charge.

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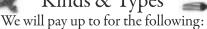
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E. Howard & Co	Up To\$11,750
Elgin	Up To \$5,000
Frodsham	Up To\$12,000
Gallet	Up To \$1,250
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Illinois	Up To\$1,500
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Longines Movado Omega Rolex Seth Thomas Tiffany & Co Ulyssee Nardin Chronograph Watches	Up Up Up Up Up	To To To To To	\$ \$2,5 \$2,5 16,0 \$1,5 15,0	000 000 000 000
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by a good amount. People are very friendly and

The staff was helpful and friendly. I was able to take old jewelry and walk away with a handsome amount of money.

— D. Smith

Had fun selling my old jewelry that was broken. Received some extra cash for Springtime and our new puppy. I would recommend RCFG!

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#### **News in brief**

#### Newtown shooter wanted to top Norway death toll

The man who shot dead 20 children and six adults at a Connecticut elementary school wanted to kill more people than the 77 slain by a Norwegian man in a 2011 rampage, CBS News reported on Monday, citing unnamed law enforcement sources.

A Connecticut state police spokesman dismissed the report as inaccurate speculation.

Adam Lanza, 20, who killed himself as police closed in on him at Sandy

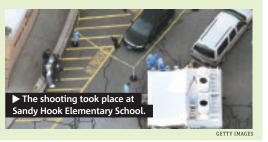
**77**People were kille

People were killed in the bombing and shooting by Anders Behring Breivik

Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, saw himself in direct competition with Anders Behring Breivik, CBS said.

Citing two officials briefed on the Newtown investigation, CBS said Lanza targeted the elementary school because he saw it as the "easiest target" with the "largest cluster of people."

The report did not say how the investigators learned of Lanza's desire to compete with Breivik.



# Bill Gates: Microsoft messed up its early mobile strategy

Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates said he was not satisfied with the company's pace of innovation over the last few years and that it had mishandled its early mobile strategy.

"We didn't miss cell phones, but the way that we went about it didn't allow us to get the leader-ship. It's clearly a mistake," Gates, Microsoft's former CEO, said in a rare interview with CBS.

Gates hedged questions on whether he was happy with Chief Executive Steve Ballmer's performance. He said Ballmer had achieved a lot but that both he and Ballmer were not satisfied.

"[Ballmer] and I are two of the most self-critical people I know," Gates said.

"There are a lot of amazing things that Steve's leadership achieved — Windows 8, the Surface computer, Bing, Xbox. Is it enough? No. He and I are not satisfied that in terms



#### Apple hit by Facebook hackers

Apple Inc. was recently attacked by hackers who infected the Macintosh computers of some employees, the company said yesterday in an unprecedented disclosure that described the widest-known cyber attacks

25 Broadway, Floor 16 | New York, NY

against Apple-made computers to date.

Unknown hackers infected the computers of some Apple workers when they visited a website for software developers that had been infected with malicious software. The malware had been designed to attack Mac computers. REUTERS

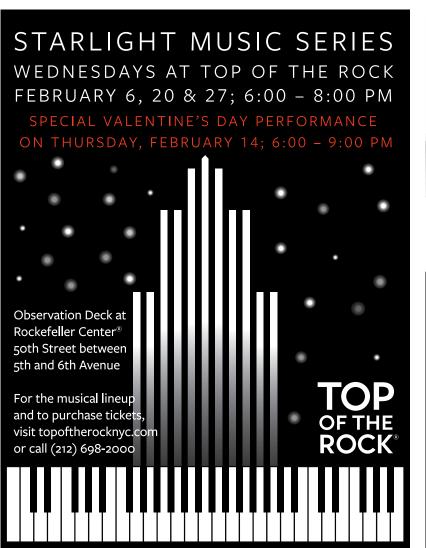
#### **Soft performers**

Microsoft has faced criticism for its latest Windows 8 versions for different devices, while its Bing search engine has won only a small market share.

of breakthrough things we are doing everything possible."

Ballmer took over as Microsoft's CEO in February 2000. The company's shares have dropped 45 percent since then.

Former Microsoft executive Joachim Kempin said in a book he wrote about his time at the company that Ballmer was not the right leader for the world's largest software company but held his grip on it by systematically forcing out any rising manager who challenged his authority. REUTERS







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# US Catholic group launches petition to prevent archbishop from voting for pope



A U.S. Catholic group has launched an online petition to keep a cardinal linked to a sex abuse scandal from attending the Vatican conclave that will select a new pope.

Catholics United, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization, says that former Los Angeles Archbishop Roger Mahony should refrain from attending the papal conclave and recuse himself from voting. The petition, launched last week, had more than 5,000 signatures as of yesterday, representing a tiny fraction of the roughly one in four Americans who are Catholics.

"Please do not bring further scandal to our Church that has already been rocked by the sex abuse crisis by attending

#### Conclave may start early

Church rules call for the conclave to start between 15 and 20 days after the papacy becomes vacant. The Vatican has said the meeting could start earlier than originally expected, giving the Roman Catholic Church a new leader by mid-March.

the Papal Conclave. You have been disciplined and you have lost your ability to have a voice within our Church," said the petition from the Washington-based group.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez stripped Mahony, 76, of his duties last month over his handling of priest sex abuse cases.

Church files unsealed under court order this month showed Mahony and an aide, Thomas Curry, worked to send priests accused of abuse out of California to shield them from law enforcement scrutiny in the 1980s.

Gomez said last week that Mahony and Curry remained bishops in good standing in the Los Angeles archdiocese. Mahony has apologized for "mistakes" he made as archbishop.

Mahony is attending the Vatican conclave to select a successor to Pope Benedict XVI. Victimsrights groups have criticized Mahony's presence at the conclave. **REUTERS** 

#### In the news

#### Pistorius tells court he thought girlfriend was an intruder

"Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius put on his artificial legs and walked across his bedroom before firing four shots through a locked toilet door, killing his cowering girlfriend in cold blood, prosecutors said yesterday.

Reeva Steenkamp, a 30year-old law graduate and



model, died after being hit by three rounds from a 9mm pistol, prosecutor Gerrie Nel said. Pistorius, 26, wept uncontrollably in court as Nel outlined details of a shooting that has stunned South Africa and the millions around the world who saw the double amputee's track glory as an inspiring tale of triumph over adversity.

Having had previous death threats and breakins, Pistorius said he slept with a 9mm pistol under his bed in his plush Pretoria home in the heart of a well-secured gated community.



12 Metr

met

#### Shooting spree tied to carjackings

A gunman on a shooting spree in suburban southern California shot and killed three people and wounded two others yesterday before killing himself, police said.

Media reported that some of the gunman's attacks involved carjackings, although the circumstances that led to the spate of violence were not immediately clear. Authorities first received a call on a shooting early in the morning at a home 50 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Officers arrived to find a woman shot to death. The suspect, a man in his 20s, fled and headed to the nearby city of Tustin, where there were additional shootings. **REUTERS** 

Victims killed in the shooting spree yesterday

24

#### THE DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

#### Warplane crash kills 12 in Yemeni capital

A Yemeni air force plane crashed in the capital Sanaa on yesterday, killing at least 12 people, security sources said.

State news agency Saba said three women and two children were among those killed when the plane, on a training flight, came down in a western residential district. Eleven people were wounded, security sources said. Pictures on social media sites showed one body near burning wreckage of the craft. REUTERS

#### Pentagon reviews interview for leaks

The Pentagon is reviewing whether a retired Navy SEAL who claims to have killed al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden disclosed classified details of the May 2011 raid that led to his death, according to a spokesman.

Esquire magazine and the Center For

Investigative Reporting published an article this month titled "The Shooter. The Man Who Killed Osama bin Laden ... Is Screwed."

In addition to providing what are said to be details of the raid, the report also outlines health insurance benefit issues the SEAL said he is encountering with the Department of Veterans Affairs since retiring from the Navy after 16

years of service.
The SEAL wasn't named. **BLOOMBERG** 

There's more than one side to a story

Maybe even five sides.

#### Woman demands Berlusconi apology for staged sex chat

An Italian woman has demanded an apology from former Prime Minister



Berlusconi: the man with a famously one-track mind.

Silvio Berlusconi for crudely joking with her onstage about sex days before a national election. The woman said her 13-yearold daughter cried for days after seeing a video of the encounter.

"I want an apology for all Italian women, because they should not have to suffer insults like this — at work or outside work," Angela Bruno said.

# No NATO role for Gen. Allen

MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAG

General John Allen, who oversaw the NATO war effort in Afghanistan until earlier this month, has decided to retire instead of pursuing his nomination as the next NATO supreme allied commander due to family health issues, President Barack Obama said yesterday.

Allen, whose wife has suffered from chronic health problems, has been under pressure in recent months as the target of a high-profile Pentagon investigation that in January cleared him of wrongdoing after examining e-mail exchanges with a Florida socialite.

The investigation arose from the sex scandal that forced retired General David Petraeus to resign as CIA director in November.

The White House had publicly said it would move forward with Allen's nomination for the NATO job. **REUTERS** 



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# THE WORD



**Dorothy Robinson's** take on the world of gossip **@dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us** 

# Lifestyles of the rich and poopy

Ah, to be famous, rich, gifted — and in diapers. Let's look into lifestyles of the rich and babies, shall we, in today's Word: Baby Edition.

On Tuesday, Alicia Keys revealed that **Egypt**, her 2year-old son with Swizz Beatz, made some moves on **Blue Ivy**, 1, who is, of course, the Most Famous Infant in the Universe®.

"Egypt kissed Blue, and I don't think **Jay** liked it very much," Keys told Wendy Williams on her eponymous talk show. "He called my husband and he was like, 'Watch your son.'"

I'd laugh if I didn't think there was some



truth behind that threat. news, Theron's adopted son Jackson had a glamourfilled first birthday party. the first guests to arrive with her son **Louis**," a source to E! News of the fete held Sunday at Theron's Hollywood Hills home. "As they walked into the party, they bumped into Chelsea Handler, who had also just arrived in a limousine. They all walked in together and headed for the backyard where children's music was playing and kids were running

And in other important Charlize "Sandra Bullock was one of

#### **Morrissey** makes the **Staples** Center do his bidding

Sorry, McDonald's, but Morrissey does not want you serving your food during his concert at Los Angeles' Staples Center on March 1.

Promoters for the show announced Monday that the arena's food service will not serve any meat products the night of his show, in deference to the musician's vegan and animal-rights activism. Moz also specifically asked for McDonald's not to open at all.

In a statement about this change of menus, Morrissey said, "I don't look upon it as a victory for me, but a victory for the animals.

Interesting. Will this mean that concert venues will change their food services to please the whims of big names? If so, will **Ozzy Osbourne** be able to find a vendor to serve enough bats to meet demand? Will Ke\$ha be able to coerce the venues to serve only Jack Daniels and Easy



#### Elijah Wood reads all about Elijah Wood

On Tuesday in Moscow, "Lord of the Rings" actor Elijah Wood read a story about his visit to Russia in the local edition of Metro, every Hobbit's favorite newspaper.

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

**A**kerrywashington Had SO much fun @Disneyland tonight :) And uhm, to the lovely guy who asked if I was 'Kerry Washington' I apologize 4 not being hon-

#### @IamDonCheadle

Sorry tweeple, my phone flipped out and sent a mass invite to Words with Friends. I really don't have the bandwidth.

#### **A**samantharonson

Just got asked, by a homeless woman, if I had speed- so obviously I'm feeling young, edgy and skinny.

#### **@SteveCarell**

Watched "Jurassic Park" with my son this weekend. We are thinking about getting a pet Velociraptor. Maybe a rescue.



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#### my**entertainment**





#### Six guys and a pregnant princess

- 1. Fun fact about Richard Gere (seen here at an 'Arbitrage" photocall yesterday in Rome): His middle name is Tiffany.
- 2. Muse's Matt Bellamy, Kate Hudson's fiance and baby daddy, took the stage in London on Monday.
- 3. Ello, Becks! David Beckham returned to his hotel after a training day at the PSG center yesterday in Paris.
- 4. Have bags, will travel: James Franco arrived at Narita International Airport in Japan on Tuesday.
- 5. "Harry Potter" actors Oliver and James Phelps (who do not have naturally red hair!) visited the Harry Potter Exhibit at Discovery Times Square on Tuesday in New York City.
- 6. Can you spot the royal heir in there? A pregnant Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, visited London's



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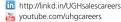
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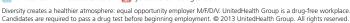
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my**entertainment** 

# Bocelli sets the mood for 'Passione'



Legendary opera singer on romantic music and reconnecting with the songs he used to play in piano bars as a young man

ith his latest album, "Passi-Andrea one,' Bocelli has put together a collection of love songs from the Mediterranean, most of which he sang in piano bars during his formative (read: not yet famous) years in Italy.

#### The songs on this album seem easier to sing.

It's easy for me, but the difficulty is in the expression that you have to put in these kinds of songs, because the original interpreters of these songs are the best singers of the world. So I have to be very careful to put all my heart into the interpretations.

#### Tell me about when you used to play these songs in piano bars.

I began to sing pop music when I was 18 years old, more or less. ... Before, I

Q&A

#### Tell me about this album's duets with Nelly Furtado and Jennifer Lopez.

Those were mostly ideas that David Foster suggested. And for me, they were both beautiful surprises. ... They really are very expressive when they sing.

Not just because of those guest stars, but there

#### seems to be a real Latin flair on this album.

The Latin world is rich of great masterpieces. And after the great success that my previous album. "Amore," had in the Latin world that was basically a collection of Latin songs, we thought it would be right to try to connect with that vibe.

Edith Piaf. She died when

you were about 8 years

old. Tell me about your

connection with her.

When I was a boy, I didn't know anything about Edith Piaf. ... But I did hear her voice, and ... it hit me deeply from the very first time that I heard it. ... And then of course, years later I actually learned more about her life ... and I realized that since she had some varied and very deep experiences in her life, this definitely must have helped her in becoming so expressive with her music.

#### Do you use experiences to be more expressive?

Absolutely, yes. ... Each one of us sings what we are. And therefore we express through our voice what cannot be expressed through words alone.



sang and listened to only opera, because my passion is for that. But when I began to play in the piano bars, I discovered wonderful pages of music - of pop music. In a few months, I learned many songs, and I began to learn the most important and famous songs of the world like "Strangers in the Night," [and] a Latin repertoire [with songs] like "Corcovado" or "Garota de

Ipanema," all the songs that I put now in these albums, because every song on this album is a beautiful memory of my youth. ... It was like plunging back into the past. It was very romantic. Speaking of romance,

what do you play when you're in the mood? Is it ever your own music? Most often, I listen to opera music.

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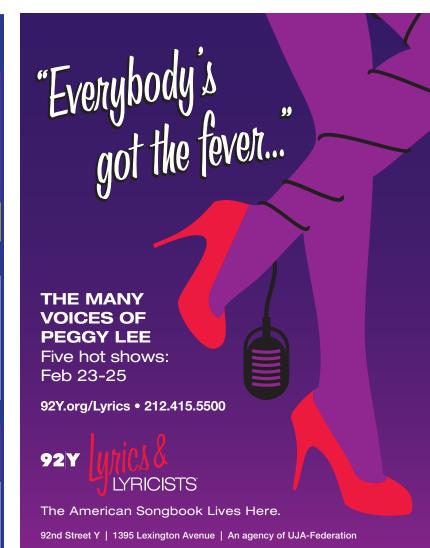
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# In space, no one can hear you game



Sidescroller



LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

pace: the final frontier. Unless your name is Richard Branson, you probably won't be traveling anytime Indulge your galactic wanderlust, then, with video games. Here are reviews of two recently released titles set in the void of space.

'Dead Space 3' Consoles: 360/PS3 Company: EA Grade: 00000

The Dead Space series successively manages to marry the survival horror thrills of "Resident Evil" with a hard sci-fi setting. It's been just two years since the second installment and the cracks are



showing. There is still plenty of fun to be had frantically blowing the limbs off of aliens and upgrading your weapons, however. The real hook here is that the entire game can be played cooperatively. This takes what otherwise would feel like a paint-bynumbers sequel and gives it an exciting, fresh coat of paint. Who knew absolute terror was best shared?

#### 'Aliens: Colonial Marines'

Consoles: 360/PS3 Company: Sega Grade: 00000

For such a popular film series, there really haven't been that many "Aliens" games. Well, if this title is any indication, we can be glad for that. A first-person shooter that works as an official sequel to James Cameron's classic film?

\$1 ZOOM! Laser Teeth Whitening

Sounds amazing on paper. Unfortunately, real life is not paper.

The problem here is boredom. The locations will push your nostalgia button, but the game play just doesn't cut it. Walk down a corridor. Kill wave after wave of witless Xenomorphs. Repeat. That's all there is to it.

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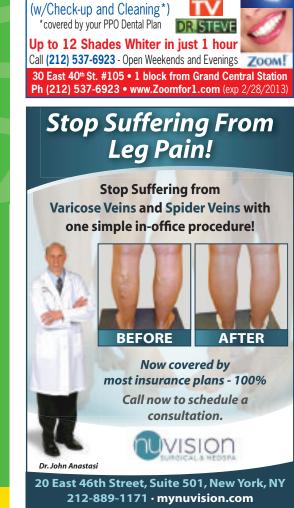
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mystyle&entertainment

# **Review.** Burberry Prorsum

Feb. 18, 4 p.m.: Christopher Bailey showed a print for everyone in his dense collection: stripes, cow blotches, hearts, leopard spots, you name it. But if those hearts look familiar, it's because they surfaced in the house's menswear collection last month. Consider them to fall 2013 what that cute owl was for fall 2012.

#### **London FW** diary MONDAY. **FEB. 18** Noon "I bet you he's going to decamp to Paris," a fashion writer says as we cram into a crowded elevator of top editors on our way to Christopher Kane's buzzing show. He's been a London Fashion Week highlight for three years now. But public interest in him is now on high, ever since PPR (the power conglomerate behind Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney) Christopher announced that it would Kane be buying a 51 percent stake in his brand in January. His collection featured a whopping 60

looks and was really like

three (or four or five?) shows in one, and they all impressively lived up to our outsized expectations. From the beautifully understated opener (a tailored navy coat fastened with one simple, leather strap) to the showstopping closer (a futuristic colorblocked dress done in metallic tinsel), not to mention all of the vignettes in between (camouflage kilts! chunky fox furs! satin wide-leg trousers! peekaboo cocktail stunners! threedimensional florals!), there was much to covet about this collection, which I'm guessing will be a career gamechanger.

— Metro's style director **Kenya Hunt** is reporting from London Fashion Week. Read her daily dispatches for the latest on what's coming down the runway and follow her on Twitter: @KENYAMETROSTYLE

#### **TV watch list**

#### Americans'

DRAMA. This buzzy new show starring Keri Russell is four episodes in and already proving to be a bona fide success. Toniaht's episode of the 1980s Cold War drama features the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan, which prompts the FBI to determine whether the KGB is involved. 10 p.m., FX

#### 'American Idol'

REALITY. Ten male semifinalists take the stage tonight in Las Vegas. By the time this two-hour episode wraps, half of them will be axed and yet we'll still feel miles away from the season's finish line. 8 p.m., FOX MATTHEW JACOBS



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#### **Heart** health

#### All about triglycerides

For ages, watching out for your heart meant monitoring cholesterol levels. Just when we get our heads around what cholesterol is and which type is good (HDI) and which is had (LDL), there's a new heart health buzzword: triglycerides. Triglycerides, like cholesterol, are watersoluble blood lipids. Simply: They're a fat. But according to NYU cardiologist Dr. Herbert A. Insel, a member of the preventative health care institute EHE International's medical advisory board, they aren't everything.

'We do look at triglyceride levels, but when it comes to heart disease, cholesterol levels are the best indicator," he says. "LDL cholesterol is the major culprit. This is when plaque ruptures occur and cardiac arrest ensues."

Like cholesterol, triglycerides have an important function: They're used for energy. But too many triglycerides become the substance that sits on your

The direct relationship between triglycerides and cardiovascular problems is unclear, but a healthy diet and weight management are

proven factors in preventing heart disease.

"High triglyceride levels may affect high levels of bad cholesterol," says Dr. Insel. "The Mediterranean diet has been proven to be good for your heart. We don't recommend a low-fat diet anymore, but we recommend healthy fats and no trans fats."

LINDA CLARKE



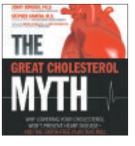
# Is sugar the culprit for heart disease?

#### • You know to watch your cholesterol, but you may not know that sugar plays a role

lebruary is famous for hearts. But thanks Heart American Association, that goes beyond Valentine's Day. It's American Heart also Month — a time to raise awareness for heart disease prevention. The most well-known route to a heart-healthy lifestyle is pursuing a low-fat, trans fat-free diet to lower cholesterol.

But Jonny Bowden, Ph.D, CNS, says the medical community has it wrong. Bowden wrote "The Great Cholesterol Myth" with leading cardiologist Stephen Sinatra, M.D., FACC, founder of integrative cardiology website www.heartmdinstitute .com, saying that dietary fat is not the cause of heart disease.

"I have an analogy I like to use," says Bowden. "When VCRs were introduced, there were two tape VHS formats. and Betamax. VHS won not because it was better, but the manufacturers talked a better story. Betamax has



proven to be superior. It's the same thing with heart disease. There were two competing theories: One said a low-fat diet was the answer, while another said sugar caused heart disease. The fat theory won. The wrong team prevailed."

Going against government guidelines and even

American Heart Association, Bowden explains that sugar causes inflammation, which damages artery walls and leads to plaque ruptures and cardiac arrest.

"We are not the first to say it," he says. "John Yudkin [the British doctor who led that 'losing team' and wrote 'Pure, White and Deadly'] had all the data in the 1970s. ... It's comforting - it's like 'The Emperor's New Clothes.' Everyone is saying 'Oh, what nice clothes.' And we're standing there yelling: 'But he's naked!'"



#### Don't use this as a free-for-all

The sugar theory blows apart decades of cholesterol testing and treatments to lower cholesterol. but it doesn't mean you can gorge on high-fat foods, which are high in calories.

"You want to achieve the middle ground," Bowden emphasizes, "neither high or low cholesterol. Avoid trans fats. Cook with lard, not Crisco. Use delicious butter and eat grass-fed beef. The factory-farmed meat is completely different to real, healthy meat."



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my**wellbeing** 

# How your stomach can predict your risk of heart disease

Got a bit of a belly? That could mean heart trouble 🗘 And skinnies don't get off scot-free

Most of us don't want belly fat for vanity reasons, but there's a greater concern about that muffin-top or potbelly: Belly fat could be an indicator of future or existing heart disease.

"Over the past 10 years there have been many studies that link how body fat is distributed to cardiovascular disease," says Dr. Kathryn Britton, a cardiologist at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital's Division of Cardiology. "But we don't know the biology and mechanism. There are a lot of studies looking into whether there's some cause as to



why some people deposit fat in their middle and whether it's directly linked heart disease, or whether it's a marker of other things associated with heart disease, such as

high cholesterol.'

Though being overweight can add to heart problems, weight is not as directly linked to heart disease as belly fat.

"Two people who weigh the same might not have the fat distributed in the same places. How fat's distributed is important," insists Dr. Britton. "Certain people are more likely to deposit fat in the abdomen. We don't know why yet. But we do know that decreasing weight will decrease belly fat."

One school of thought as to why has to do with genetics.

#### No-go for lipo

Sorry: Liposuction does not work on the kind of fat that is linked to cardiovascular problems:

"It isn't the fat that's closest to the skin that's the problem," Dr. Britton says. "The really dangerous fat is deeper, surrounding organs, and you can't liposuction [it]."

"There probably is some genetic component," Dr. Britton says. Still, she advises people to avoid shrugging belly fat off as hereditary and out of their

"Most medical conditions have genetic and environmental factors and it's usually environmental that's a richer contributor," she says. "There are so many ways to decrease your risk of heart disease. Adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle by eating healthy food and exercising."



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February 13, 2013 10 Nathan D. Perlman Place, Bernstein Pavillion 5:30 - 7 pm

#### Hispanics/Latinos & Cardiovascular Disease: Raising Awareness

February 19, 2013 1st Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky, Conference Room 12:30 - 1 pm

#### **Heart Healthy Day: Health Screenings & Counseling**

February 22, 2013 10 Union Square East, 2nd Floor Conference Rooms 11 am - 5 pm

#### **Heart-Healthy Cooking & Ask the Expert**

February 28, 2013 317 East 17th Street, Fierman Hall, 8th Floor 2 - 4 pm

#### **Don't Stress Your Test**

February 26, 2013 1st Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky, Conference Room 12 noon - 1 pm

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my**wellbeing** 

# Power foods that help lower blood pressure

#### Advice

#### JOY BAUER

HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPERT FOR THE 'TODAY' SHOW AND NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

www.joybauer.com

ebruary is American Heart Month, so I'm highlighting five delicious and nutritious foods that can help you gain control of high blood pressure and satisfy your taste buds, too.

Baked white potato: The tasty spud often gets a bad rap (since it is commonly thrown in the deep fryer), but it is actually a rich source of magnesium and potassium, two vital nutrients for heart health. When potassium levels are low, the body holds onto extra sodium (and too much sodium raises blood pressure). On the other hand, when you eat a potassium-rich diet, the body becomes more efficient at getting rid of exsodium. Like potassium, magnesium is also a key player in promoting healthy blood flow. Just skip the butter and sour cream toppings and instead opt for a dollop of nonfat Greek yogurt or salsa to kick the flavor up a notch.

Spinach: Spinach is low in calories, high in fiber and packed with hearthealthy nutrients like potassium,

Surprise! Baked potatoes aren't

as bad you might think. Just hold

the sour cream - Greek yogurt is

a great sub!



folate and magnesium — all key ingredients for lowering and maintaining blood pressure levels. Try sauteing yours with garlic and olive oil for an easy dinner side. Or, try mixing fresh spinach leaves into salads or add them to sandwiches in place of your usual lettuce.

Sunflower seeds: A quarter cup of this simple snack is also an excellent source of magnesium. Make sure you buy the unsalted version, as the salted kind is high in sodium — a mineral that you want to avoid when it comes to keeping blood pressure levels in check.

**Soybeans:** Soybeans are another excellent source of potassium and magnesium. Look for soybeans in the pod (edamame) in the freezer case at your local grocery store. For a healthy snack, boil one cup and pop them directly out of the shell and into your mouth.

— For more smart information on lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, visit www.joybauer.com and follow Joy on Facebook and Twitter (@joybauer).



#### **Bananas**

This fruit comes conveniently wrapped in its own packaging and is filled with loads of potassium, so it's a great choice for an onthe-go heart-healthy snack. You can also add a banana to your breakfast by slicing it into a whole grain cereal or blending into a smoothie with some strawberries and nonfat Greek yogurt. Plus, bananas make a yummy sweet treat when sliced into half-inch wheels and frozen vum!



#### **Beans**

These legumes are versatile and nutritious, too! Choose any type of bean that floats your boat — black, white, navy, lima, pinto, kidney or a combo of a few. They are chock-full of soluble fiber, magnesium and potassium, all excellent ingredients for lowering blood pressure and improving overall heart health. Add beans to your favorite salads, soups or wraps; as a bonus, they're pretty inexpensive.

#### myletters&games

#### Across

— -a-brac 5 Vasco da -

9 Vouchers

14 Make it snappy

15 Saudi Arabia neighbor 16 Milkmaid who Krishna loved

17 Well-qualified

18 Hold down a job

19 Clay pots

20 Mascara target

22 Altar boy

24 Sell hot tickets 26 Lennon's wife

27 Utterly miserable

30 Relax (2 wds.)

35 Be a bad winner 36 Tall tale

37 Edit out

38 — Lingus

39 Earliest

42 Courtroom fia.

43 Bulrush or cattail 45 Batik need

46 Catcher under Stengel

48 Grandeur 50 Feudal tenant

51 "Ulalume" poet

52 Blow, as a horse 54 Shooting stars

58 Loser (hyph.)

62 Veldt grazer

63 Prima donna

65 Cattle-call reward

66 Tennis standout Ivan —

67 Remote

68 Particular

69 Make fun of

70 Garden green

71 Bonkers

Down 1 Hillside, to Angus

2 Deep red 3 Castaway's refuge

4 London district

5 Jumps on (2 wds.)

6 Menotti hero

7 Nick or scratch

8 — Karenina

9 Hums in a soft voice

H Pisces Feb. 20-March 20.

ina while overlookina the

rate cases.

Guard against a strong inclina-

tion to reward the undeserv-

virtuous. There's a possibility

you could do so in two sepa-

T Aries March 21-April 19. This

could be a disconcerting day,

from being inspired to being

disenchanted. Unless you get

Taurus April 20-May 20. You

could do yourself a great dis-

and blindly allowing one of

tions. Check things out first.

 ${
m II}$  Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If

you've been borrowing things

lately, such as tools, materials

service by reacting impulsively

your hunches to direct your ac-

a handle on your moods,

they'll hamper you greatly.

because you can quickly go

27 Petri dish gels 28 Censor 29 Superman's father (hyph.)

or even cash, it's best to clear

matters up by returning every-

thing as soon as possible.

You'll feel better about your-

Gancer June 21-July 22. Taken

alone, vour judament isn't too

bad, but you must be careful

not to be swayed by another

terest in mind. Don't believe

everything that you're told.

Leo July 23-Aug. 22. Don't be

impatient if your fellow man

doesn't grasp the essence of

It won't hurt to repeat what

my Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Nor-

mally, you are an extremely

prudent and pragmatic per-

son, but today you could be-

financial affair that could be

extremely risky. Tread slowly.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. When

come intrigued with a

isn't understood at first.

an idea as quickly as you'd like.

who doesn't have your best in-

10 Called out (var.)

13 Letter encl.

12 "Anything but -!"

23 — age (long time)

25 Wood smoothers

21 Customers, to an S&L

11 Without much thought

29

56

38

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31 Crude metals

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32 Moves toward

33 Infra opposite

34 Scent carrier 36 Goofball (hyph.)

40 More unusual

41 Ski lifts (hyph.)

44 Relies

47 Portuguese resort

49 Piece of pasta

50 Dean Martin hit 53 Kind of blockade

54 Liquefy

55 Gen. Robert — —

56 Blue Nile source

57 Wyo. neighbor

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68

59 — -Rooter

60 He played Obi-Wan

61 Fictional sub commander

64 — — tree falls...

ness. You could do or say something that would cause your prospect to back off. Aguarius Ian. 20-Feb. 19. There is a strong likelihood that you could reveal something that you promised to keep secret. Keep a tight hold

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making a major household purchase, you should take things slowly. If you're unsure about your choice, temporarily walk away and dismiss it from your mind until you're posi-

 $\mathfrak{m}$  Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. This could be one of those days when you could benefit from putting off what you don't feel like doing, especially if it's something extremely distasteful to you. Time will take care of it.

₹ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Be extremely careful when handling the resources of another as well as your own. Indifference on your part could prove to be more costly than you anticipate.

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#### Letters

#### **USDA's conflict** of interest making **Americans fat**

There seems to be an international war on obesity. Among the world's industrialized nations, the United States bears the dubious distinction of being the world's fattest. In 1992, the USDA introduced the food pyramid which was greatly influenced by politics. The pyramid recommended 6 to 11 servings of grains daily, more than any other food group. Since that time, the number of overweight Americans has risen 61 percent. The federal government has been subsidizing and promoting the consumption of high-carbohydrate foods such as wheat, corn, soybeans, rice and cotton. Farmers are paid based on how many bushels of these crops that they grow, which promotes overproduction. Farmers growing fresh produce by contrast, receive very little from Washington. In 2011, the food pyramid was replaced by MyPlate which is better but it still has grains occupying a sizable portion of it. The federal government should be put on a diet by getting out of the

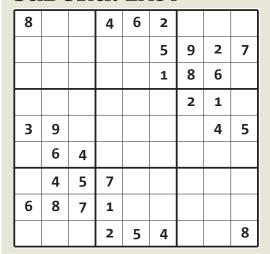
business of subsidizing crops and making dietary recommendations. If food prices were dictated solely by the market rather than politics, it is likely that fruits and vegetables would be less expensive than processed, unhealthy foods. JANET MCCARTHY, VIA E-MAIL

#### Obama's got a novel definition of 'big government'

President Obama says "we don't need bigger government" and then proceeds to propose everything from free health care to high-speed rail in his State of the Union Address. How exactly do are we supposed to pay for these things without growing government? Bill Clinton was smart enough to say "the era of big government is over" without proposina government-subsidized quality pre-school education." Now that Marco Rubio's "Watergate" response failed to make a mockery out of the U.S. senator from Florida, liberals are now saying he made claims in his response that President Obama did not make in his speech. The center piece is Obama explicitly said he didn't want bigger government and Rubio said he does.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

#### **SUDOKU:** EASY



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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# Knicks trade unlikely

◆ Woodson says team has 'nothing working' on trade front, even with rumors swirling ◆ Wallace returns to practice, doesn't talk

The Knicks got back to work yesterday, expecting the same players that practiced to remain a part of the team when the trade deadline passes Thursday.

Head coach Mike Woodson said he believes it will be "the same guys" who'll fight for Atlantic Division and conference supremacy going forward.

"I don't think we have anything working," Woodson said about the many trade rumors involving the Knicks. "You always talk, but we like the makeup of our team."

Tuesday was the first time all season that all 15 guys on the roster worked out together. The sightings of Rasheed Wallace and Marcus Camby were particularly encouraging, since both forwards offer the type of defensive flexibility Woodson craves.



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Wallace didn't practice fully — nor talk to the media following practice instead choosing to get fitted with protective footwear. Grumpy disposition aside, his teammates were happy to see him back in the mix — though no one knows when he'll return to action.

"We have to get back on the same page through-

out entire games and throughout entire streaks," Chandler said. "We've shown that we can play with the best, especially in spurts."



# King: Only 10 percent chance Nets make deal

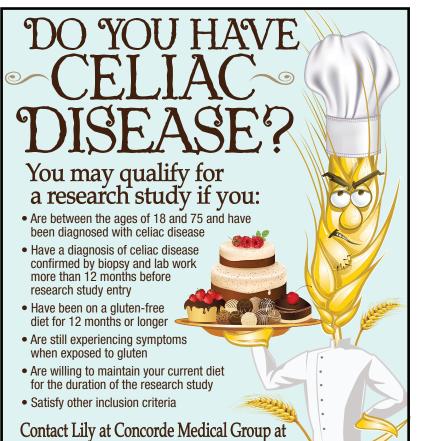
Don't get your trade hopes up if you are a Nets fan either.

General Manager Billy King spoke to the media yesterday and said it was unlikely the team would make a deal before Thursday's 3 p.m. deadline.

"I would put the likelihood of us doing a deal at 10 percent," King said. "I like to make trades when I think there's a trade to make that can help the team. And I think we're at a point now where this group's gotta play together more than shaking it up and bringing in a bunch of pieces."

The Nets have been tied to rumored trades, including Atlanta's Josh Smith and Utah's Paul Millsap, among others. They have very few assets though, with most teams unlikely to want Kris Humphries.

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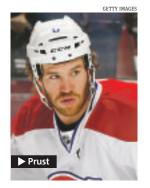
Rangers fan favorite, tough guy now plays for Candiens D Enjoying having role beyond fights

The impish grin was the same. The colors were the same. It was the logo on the T-shirt Brandon Prust wore yesterday afternoon that was different.

"I don't know if I have too many bad memories of being here," Prust told reporters outside the visiting dressing room prior to the Canadiens-Rangers game last night at the Garden. The resumption of the Original Six rivalry marked Prust's return to New York after spending two and a half seasons with the Rangers.

"[I] made a lot of friends, love the city, great organization. It's kind of a kick-start to my hockey career. All good memories."

Prust signed a four-year, \$10 million deal with the Canadiens as an unrestricted free agent on July 1. The Montreal brain trust determined that one of the primary issues with the Canadiens in 2011-12 was



#### Quoted

"It's good to go out and you're not always thinking about fighting. Sometimes I find I was doing a lot." PRUST, ON HIS NEW ROLE

a decided lack of tough-

The early returns have been good. The Canadiens entered last night's game with a Northeast Division leading 10-4-1 record.

"It's been a good start to the season. Enjoying my time, we have a great team, organization. It's been a lot easier, we're winning," Prust said of the Canadiens' courtship. They made some good changes in the offseason, [and] you like to think you're a piece of that puzzle, [that] you brought some good things to that dressing room and out on the ice. That's what I try to do on the ice. It's been a whole bunch of the things that have come together to bring us success."

He also wanted to prove that he can do more than trade punches.

"Sometimes like me are maybe overlooked. It was something I wanted to prove," Prust



**Denis Gorman** 

# **Sports** in brief ► All told, cutting Scott (pictured), Pace, Eric Smith, Jason Smith and Baker saves the Jets \$31 million.

#### Jets release Pace, Scott, others in salary cap moves

JETS. The Jets have officially cut ties with linebackers Calvin Pace and Bart Scott. In addition, the team announced that right tackle Jason Smith, safety Eric Smith and tight end Josh Baker have all been released.

Multiple team and league sources have told Metro New York that the Jets are willing to renegotiate a deal with Scott at a lesser cap hit. League sources say he's also interested in a return to Baltimore or possibly playing for the crosstown rival, the Giants. He was slated to make \$7 million in 2013.

Pace was seen as an ideal fit in the Jets' 3-4 scheme, but he produced diminishing returns, including just 55 tackles and three sacks last season. Pace has always been an outspoken member of the locker room, frequently calling out teammates.

This candor, combined with a cap savings of roughly \$8.5 million, figured into the decision to release the veteran outside linebacker.

A team source said Pace is not expected back with the Jets at a lesser salary.

O KRISTIAN DYER

#### **Hughes suffers** back stiffness

YANKEES. One day after the Mets suffered their first injury of the spring, the Yankees announced

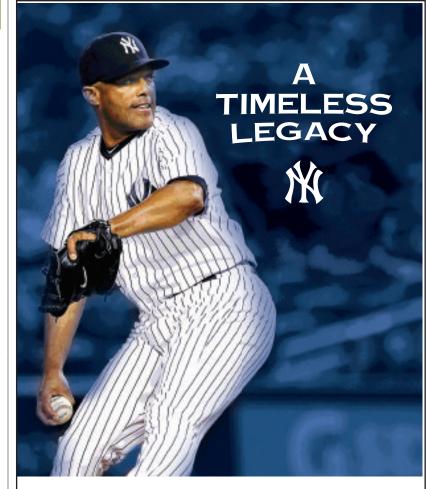


that starter Phil Hughes will be put on the shelf for two days with

back stiffness suffered in a fielding drill.

'There's always a little bit of concern, but it's in his upper back, not his lower back," manager Joe Girardi told

Hughes is expected to be the No. 4 starter this season. O METRO



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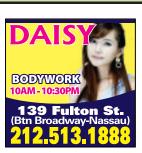
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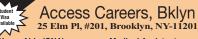
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FLUSHING 158<sup>th</sup> St. - 1 BR on 1st flr, walk-up building. Fully Renovated. \$1150/mo. Principals Only. Call Owner 718-358-3564 or 718-575-9600

Jamaica- Owner, Beaut 1 Fam house rental. 3-5br, 2ba, I/r D/r, Jac, dvwy, yd, w/d-pet ok, Cred & Ref's req. 2mo rent + sec. \$2400 + util. 347-381-0365

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO LAW. that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday. February 27, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Café Mocha Inc. to continue to, maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 116 2nd Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of two years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

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#### **Market watch**



CHEAPEST \$235K 203 E. 89th St. The cheapest unit listed this week is a pre-war studio at 203 E. 89th St. This first-floor co-op is 350 square feet and listed by Charles Rutenberg for \$235,000.



PRICIEST \$50M 135 E. 79th St. The most expensive apartment listed this week is a condo at 135 E. 79th St. Just east of Park Avenue, this enormous penthouse offers six bedrooms in a brand new building. It's listed by Corcoran for \$50M.



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► Can New Yorkers still afford to pay sky-high rents?

# NYC renter fatigue?

♦ While the rental market is still strong, experts weigh in on whether New Yorkers have reached a tipping point on prices

here's been a lot of buzz lately about the long-hot Manhattan rental market finally taking a breather from its constant rent increases. Indeed, while the rental market is still up about 5 percent year-over-year, it saw a dip in prices between the third and fourth quarters of 2012.

This month, The Real Deal talked to rental brokers and market analysts to gauge what they're seeing on the ground and what they make of the recent softening.

Gary Malin President, Citi Habitats Recent reports show that Manhattan rental prices are now softening slightly. What are you seeing in terms of prices? Rents have actually in-



creased by an average of 5 percent year-over-year and are nearly 15 percent higher than they were two years ago. So they still remain at near-record-high levels. It remains to be seen just how much of the recent rent drops are seasonal, versus signs of "renter fatigue" — my term for the point where renters just can't afford to pay the asking prices anymore. If we see continued declines into 2013, it could be a sign of the latter.

# Some first-time buyers have been pushed into the sales market because rental prices have gotten so high. What are you seeing on that front?

Our agents have transitioned a lot of rental clients into the sales market. The studio and one-bedroom market on the sales side is currently very active. However, strict lending standards and an uncertain economy mean that many New Yorkers will remain in the city's rental market — by choice or necessity.

#### Which Manhattan neighborhoods have seen the biggest price drops and inventory increases as part of this rental market softening?

In terms of rent declines across all apartment sizes from November to December of 2012, the biggest drops occurred in Midtown West. When examining vacancy rates for the same period, the largest jump in the number of available apartments occurred on the Upper East Side.

We've reported that many renters are opting out of the pricey Manhattan market and are looking for rentals in Brooklyn and Queens instead. What are you seeing on that front?



**Douglas Wagner Executive director of** leasing, Bond New **York Properties** What are the most surprising trends you're seeing in the NYC rental market? Landlords with midmarket apartments in walk-up and mid-rise elevator buildings have spent much of the past year renovating ordinary apartments in order to be competitive with the higher-tier properties. We're seeing some well-designed and highly finished tenement-style apartments pricing like doorman units.

#### troubling or worrisome trends? There are fewer choices than ever for economically limited renters. What sorts of trends are you expecting to see in the rental market in the coming

What are the most

We anticipate prices will remain high. Whatever seasonal buildup of inventory we might experience in the first quarter will be absorbed in the second quarter, [and] vacancy rates will remain at crisis levels during 2013.

#### Quoted

months?

"We're seeing some well designed and highly finished tenement-style apartments pricing like doorman units." WAGENER



During 2012, our firm worked on several new residential buildings in Downtown Brooklyn and in Long Island City and Astoria, Queens. All these developments have performed exceptionally well. Renters can find new luxury rental properties that are trading at a 25 to 30 percent discount to equivalent properties across the river.

# Jonathan Miller President/CEO, Miller Samuel What are you seeing in terms of renters opting out of Manhattan because it's become too pricey?

We have been seeing this trend evolve over the past year. [But] the difference in median rent for Manhattan and Brooklyn has compressed over the past year as demand rises in Brooklyn. The difference in median rent between Manhattan and Brooklyn for December compared to a year ago went from \$525 to \$513. Not a large change, but it shows how Brooklyn has been rising a bit faster than Manhattan has.

# What are the most positive trends you're seeing in the Manhattan rental market today?

A more modest pace of growth is always a positive trend. Anytime you have out-of-control growth that doesn't self-regulate, it always ends badly. Think about the housing boom in the middle of the last decade.

MELISSA DEHNCKE-MCGILL

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# Tips to ensure you get your deposit back



enters, don't let your love affair with wallpaper prevent you from getting your hefty security deposit check back at the end of your lease. You have to be smart tenants. Kari Taylor, director of rental insights at Rent.com, gives us the how-to.

#### Read your lease

"This may seem like common sense, but so many renters miss the specific guidelines laid out by their landlord regarding the return of their deposit," she says. "A list should be made and agreed upon regarding the conditions of the apartment in the lease — before you sign it."

#### Takes pictures of something other than food and sunsets

"Take some photos of the apartment when you first move in," Taylor suggests. "Make sure they are timeand date-stamped! Then repeat the process on moveout day. This way preexisting damage is documented and the blame cannot fall on you."

#### Ask before you,

say, paint the

#### walls red

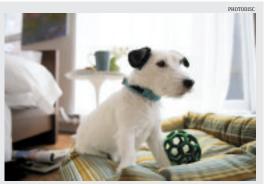
"When renting, it is always best to get written permission from your landlord before doing any renovations, changing paint color, etc."

#### Tidy up

"While you may think you're as clean as a whistle, your landlord may not agree," she says. "It may be worth hiring a cleaning service upon move-out day just to cover all your bases. The \$100 clean-up may save you the aggravation of an argument and security deposit dispute down the line."

#### Work with your landlord

"There is no guarantee that a landlord will negotiate you breaking your lease, but maybe there is a compromise that can be met. For instance, you could help find a replacement tenant."



#### The pet amendment

"Landlords will often bend some of their lease rules for a trustworthy tenant or a special circumstance. If you agree upon an amendment to the lease (your miniature pooch can stay on the premises) make sure you both sign it and date it and, if at all possible, get the amendment reworked into the paperwork."

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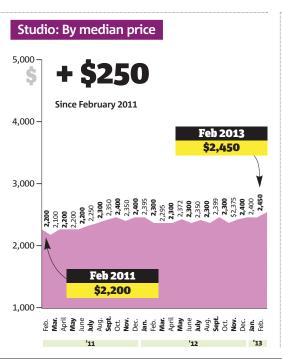
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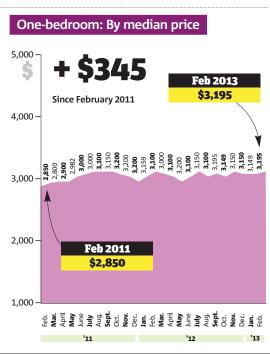
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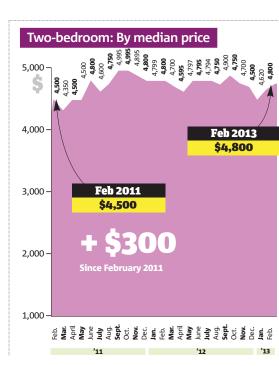
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- The city that never sleeps also really doesn't do mortgages Now the market before you lease
- Here's a look at what people are shelling out to rent various-sized apartments in Manhattan







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